Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The white cane is a simple yet effective tool that enables citizens with visual impairments throughout South Dakota and the nation to enjoy greater independence and freedom of movement by allowing them to navigate safely through their environment, avoiding physical barriers and hazards; and,

Whereas, The white cane is also a symbol of dignity and determination that serves as a tangible reminder that individuals who have impaired eyesight possess not only the desire but also the ability to lead full, independent, and productive lives; and,

Whereas, Established by the National Federation of the Blind, the annual observance of "White Cane Days" emphasizes the need for all citizens to be aware of the presence of disabled persons in their communities and to work together to keep the streets, highways, sidewalks, walkways, public buildings and facilities, and places of public accommodation, amusement, and resort safe and functional for the disabled; and,

Whereas, The 2003 celebration of "White Cane Days" provides a unique opportunity for the citizens of South Dakota to renew their commitment to eliminating physical and attitudinal barriers that continue to hinder the full participation of blind persons in our society; and,

Whereas, Lions International, with over 1,300,000 members in the free world, has been dedicated to serving sight for over 60 years; and,

Whereas, The South Dakota Lions Foundation and South Dakota Lions Clubs have been outstanding in providing manpower and leadership in their communities to help the needy with sight problems through the use of its white cane donations, and has invited its neighbors to share in saving vision by donating to its "White Cane Days" event; and,

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 12-18, 2003, as

LIONS WHITE CANE DAYS

in South Dakota, and invite all citizens to join me in sharing the Lions' concern for the best sight possible for our neighbors in need by giving generously during Lions White Cane Days. Every penny will give "The Gift of Sight."

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of October in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Three.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State